

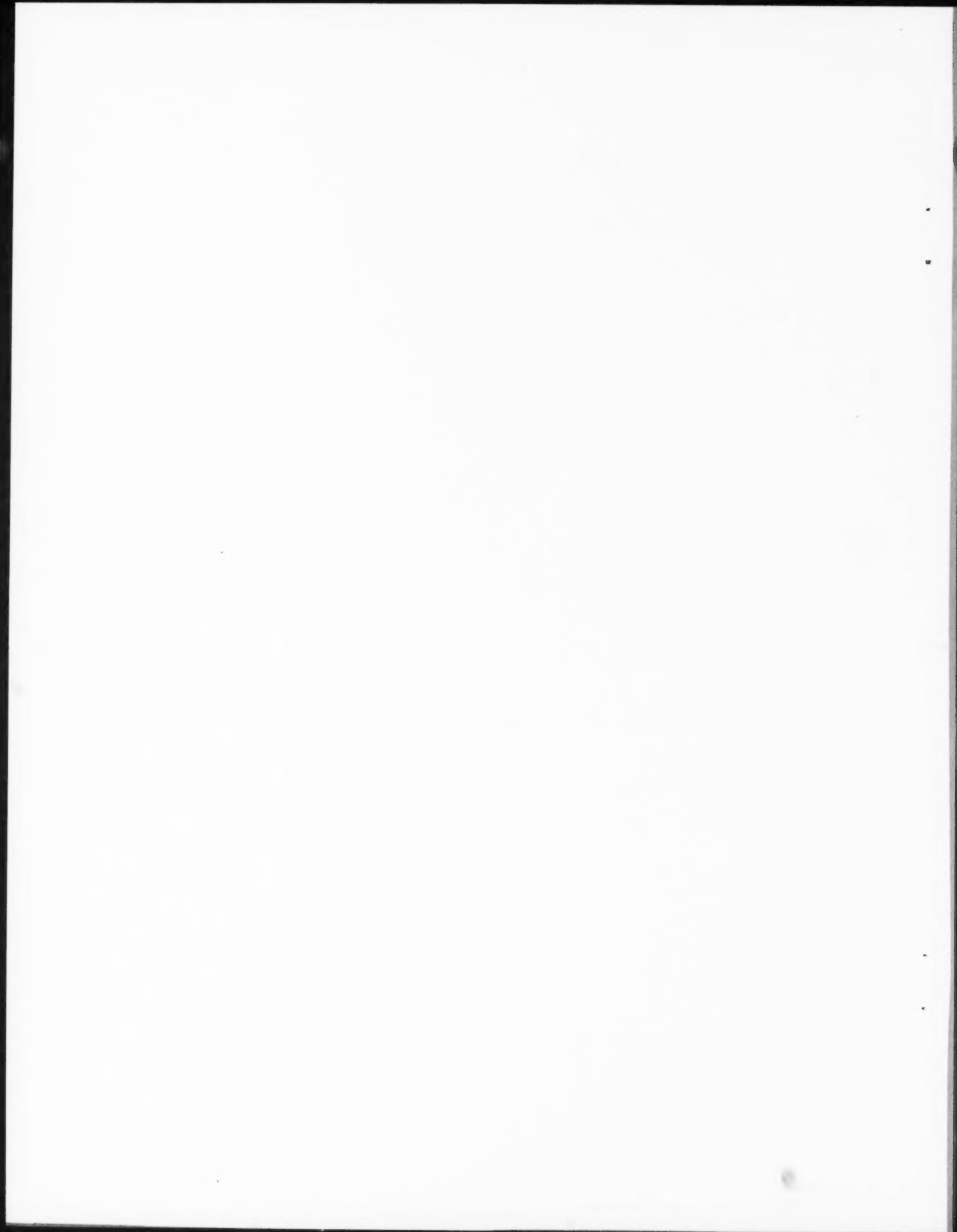
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN



11-12

PLAN FOR 2011-12

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND
ATTORNEY GENERAL**



MINISTRY PLAN FOR 2011-12

Statement from the Minister



The theme of this year's budget, the *Saskatchewan Advantage*, illustrates how the Government's vision of a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan is being realized. While leading the country in economic and population growth, Saskatchewan is also providing opportunity for a high quality of life for all.

The Plan for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General for the 2011-12 fiscal year will build on the successful completion of many points in my Mandate Letter by ensuring that additional measures are taken to reduce crime, and to assist victims of crime or those who are most vulnerable. Our initiatives will also help achieve the Province's goals of further economic growth, security, and accountability.

We will be implementing the Serious Violent Offender Response to target the prosecution of offenders who commit more serious offences and may qualify as long-term or dangerous offenders. In addition, we will be introducing a new program to track adult serious offenders.

Legislative protections for consumers and businesses will continue to be implemented, and the efficiency and effectiveness of processes designed to protect consumers from unlawful and unscrupulous practices in the marketplace will be improved by the movement of the Consumer Protection Branch into the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission.

Those in vulnerable circumstances will also be assisted by enhancements to the Aboriginal Courtworker Program specifically in the area of child protection, new provisions for safe transportation of women and children in the North who are fleeing domestic violence, and support for legal services to low income individuals.

We will continue to work with our federal counterparts to develop programs and fund initiatives to respond to crime. We also look forward to continuing the relationships with our various partners across the province to address issues such as alcohol-fuelled violence, missing persons, and organized crime and gangs.

We will also continue our efforts to review and reform our systems to improve the service we provide to the people of Saskatchewan.

I look forward to reporting our progress against this Plan in the annual report.

The Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Response to Government Direction

Government's plan for the upcoming year is described in the *Government Direction for 2011-12: The Saskatchewan Advantage*. The 2011-12 Budget supports this plan by maintaining and improving our quality of life through enhanced public services and creating more opportunities for all Saskatchewan citizens. Responsible fiscal management means finding the right balance between debt reduction, tax relief, investing in short-term capital infrastructure projects, and matching program spending to long-term, sustainable revenues.

Meanwhile, Government continues to promote effectiveness and efficiency throughout the public service; is continuing with its four-year plan to reduce Government's footprint; and has adopted a "Lean" culture of continuous improvement in the delivery of programs and services.

Ministry Plans for 2011-12 support the fulfillment of Government's **vision for a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing opportunity for a high quality of life for all**. Government's goals and priorities for the upcoming year are described in the *Government Direction* document, as well as in each ministry plan.

The Plan for 2011-12 communicates a high-level framework for the Ministry's key activities in the upcoming year. All ministries and agencies will report on results achieved or not yet achieved, in their annual reports, to honour Government's commitment to keep its promises, and to ensure greater transparency and accountability to Saskatchewan people.

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General has responsibility to provide a fair justice system that upholds the law and protects the rights of all individuals in Saskatchewan. It will achieve this by fostering safe communities, access to justice, respect for the law, understanding of and confidence in the justice system, and by maintaining the legal foundation to foster social cohesion and economic prosperity.

This means that the Ministry will:

- provide legal and policy services for government;
- provide mechanisms for resolving differences;
- foster understanding and ownership of the justice system;
- ensure appropriate enforcement of the law and hold offenders to account through prosecutions;
- provide a framework for commercial transactions;
- promote crime prevention;
- respond to the needs of victims of crime and adults and children in vulnerable circumstances; and,
- work collaboratively to address adverse conditions that bring people into contact with the justice system.

Strategies and Actions

Government Goal – Economic Growth

Sustain **Economic Growth** for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.

Strategy

Key 2011-12 Actions

Increase protections for investors and consumers, and assure the integrity of Canada's capital markets

- Consolidate services dedicated to protecting consumers by transferring the Consumer Protection Branch to the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission.
- With the credit union system, develop and implement changes to *The Credit Union Act* to facilitate Credit Union Central's restructuring plans.
- Implement amendments to *The Securities Act* that will support the work of the Canadian Public Accountability Board, and authorize the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission to regulate credit rating organizations.
- Continue to work with the national working group to develop harmonized legislation to allow financial advisors dealing in securities to incorporate.

Promote a favourable business environment and better protect consumers by improving legislation

- Implement provincial legislation on payday lending.
- Implement *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*.
- Implement amendments to *The Pension Benefits Act* to ease the regulatory burden affecting the establishment and administration of multi-jurisdictional pension plans.
- Develop amendments to *The Condominium Property Act* to address issues raised in consultations with industry and consumers, including with respect to insurance and bylaw development and enforcement.
- Complete consultations with respect to implementation of the *Uniform Unincorporated Associations Act*.
- Work with travel agencies to develop options for enhancing consumer protection.

Government Goal – Security

Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.

Strategy

Reduce crime and improve public confidence in the justice system through prevention, intervention, and enforcement

Key 2011-12 Actions

- Continue to work with the federal government to strengthen the criminal law and criminal process to deal with serious offenders, including changes in areas such as lawful access, drug reform, criminal procedure, and the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
- Continue to work with the federal government to implement changes to the sex offender information registration system.
- With Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP), police agencies, and the federal government, develop a violent crime reduction strategy.
- Improve the response to serious violent offending through developing a program to track information about serious violent offenders, monitor them, and hold them more accountable.
- With Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, the Ministries of Health and CPSP, and northern leaders, continue to develop a response to improve public awareness about responsible use of alcohol to reduce violent crime.
- Continue to work with the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons, with families of missing persons, and other jurisdictions and organizations nationally and regionally to improve the response to missing persons cases.
- Support the work of CPSP, other ministries, and police agencies in developing and implementing a strategy on policing and partnerships to reduce crime.
- Continue to provide a continuum of service for victims and offenders in the criminal justice system by holding some offenders accountable through referrals to alternative measures programs offered by community-based programs.
- Continue to work with Alberta, British Columbia, and Manitoba to develop common or complementary policies and operational and legislative approaches to reduce organized crime and gangs.

Strategy

Improve policies, services, supports, and infrastructure to increase public confidence, efficiency, and justice for all people in Saskatchewan

Improve access to services and supports for victims of crime

Key 2011-12 Actions

- Continue to work with justice partners to develop approaches to reduce time to case resolution/set trial in criminal cases.
 - With CPSP and other criminal justice partners, identify and monitor opportunities to reduce the number of adults on remand.
 - Work with CPSP, the federal government, and other jurisdictions to continue to improve the seizure of assets/proceeds of crime or items that pose a threat to public safety.
 - Continue to develop the capacity of the Ministry to effectively enforce restitution orders on behalf of victims of crime.
 - With CPSP and police services, review and respond to the findings of the evaluation of the videoconferencing initiative, including potential expansion of videoconferencing sites.
 - Improve the administrative organization of the Justice of the Peace program that provides an entry point for the criminal justice system in order to enable the program to better meet the needs of those involved.
 - Work with the federal and provincial governments to provide an enhanced, consistent response to compensation for the wrongfully convicted.
 - Continue to monitor and review the efficiencies of the newly implemented case management and electronic filing system for the Court of Appeal.
 - Develop the requirements for an automated trial scheduling system in the Saskatoon Provincial Court.
 - With police agencies and CPSP, continue to review options for the management and delivery of court security, detention, and prisoner transportation services in the province and implement the Risk-based Court Security Strategy and Plan.
 - Pilot an electronic ticketing initiative with police to improve processing time for offence tickets.
 - In collaboration with police agencies, develop a provincial strategy to track and store unidentified human remains.
 - Provide funding to support legal advice for vulnerable Saskatchewan people through the Community Legal Services for Saskatoon Inner City Incorporated. (CLASSIC).
 - Enhance or expand services and policies for children and families, including:
 - ~ expanding the pilot project where Aboriginal courtworker services assist families in understanding child protection situations; and,
 - ~ working towards creating a child support recalculation program that reviews and adjusts court-ordered child support based on current income tax information.
-
- Continue to effectively manage the Victims' Fund to ensure timely, appropriate response to the needs of victims of crime through 47 programs in 37 agencies offering services including crisis intervention, financial compensation, support throughout the criminal justice process, and public education.
 - Continue to implement the plan for videoconferencing to allow child victims and other vulnerable witnesses to testify from outside courtrooms.
 - Review the feasibility of a central registry for protection orders in Saskatchewan to provide easily accessible information to police about non-contact conditions and to enable timely victim notification when circumstances change in criminal or family court matters.
 - Increase victim safety in the North by developing a Northern Transportation and Safety Initiative.
 - Implement amendments to *The Victims of Crime Act, 1995* to support police sharing victims' information with police-based victim services programs and support interjurisdictional work to provide a consistent approach to Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) referral of victims to victim services programs.

Strategy

Support adults and children in vulnerable circumstances by providing program services and supports

Key 2011-12 Actions

- Support the development, delivery, and funding of programs to address interpersonal violence and abuse, including 40 services delivered by 34 community-based organizations in 17 communities.
- Continue to implement Public Guardian and Trustee program reforms arising from the program review completed in 2009-10 and from the Lean review in 2010-11.
- Implement amendments to *The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Act* to strengthen protection of adults who are incapable of managing their own personal or financial matters.
- Undertake a review of legislation affecting vulnerable adults.
- Work with the federal and provincial governments to implement changes in family law.
- Continue to deliver family justice services that include the enforcement of maintenance payments, parent education programs, custody and access assessments, and supervised access and exchange programs.
- Continue to provide family mediation services to assist parents resolve parenting issues in a positive child-centered manner.
- Develop amendments to *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act* to facilitate the implementation of the new maintenance enforcement system.
- Continue to work with the Regional Intersectoral Committees to advance integrated service delivery among human service ministries, agencies, and other stakeholders at the provincial, regional, and local levels to ensure a seamless service system for children, youth, and their families.
- Participate with other ministries in responding to the recommendations of the Child Welfare Review.

Government Goal – Promises

Keep Government's **Promises** and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

Strategy

Key 2011-12 Actions

Negotiate key federal/provincial agreements to benefit Saskatchewan people

- Continue to work with provincial/territorial and federal partners to ensure adequate levels of support for civil and criminal legal aid.
- Continue to partner with Justice Canada to ensure the delivery of community justice programs.
- Negotiate with federal authorities to continue to receive the child-centred justice funds.
- Continue to work with other provincial/territorial governments, particularly in Western Canada, on issues of mutual concern, such as organized crime.

Increase participation of Aboriginal people in justice system delivery to deal with criminal justice issues

- Support government in implementing the new consultation policy with First Nations and Métis peoples.
- Continue to access advice from Elders on justice reform and on existing policies, programs, and services.
- With First Nations and Métis peoples and organizations and CPSP, develop a plan to enhance the role of First Nations and Métis people in the development, implementation, and delivery of community-based justice services.

Ensure that the administration of public affairs is within the rule of law¹

- Continue to provide legal and policy advice and services to government to ensure its operations comply with the rule of law.
- Continue to offer ministries, agencies, and others advice on dispute resolution processes and assistance in resolving public policy issues.
- Continue to offer ministries, agencies, and local authorities administrative and policy advice to improve compliance with access and privacy laws.

1. The rule of law means that the Government and all citizens are subject to the law and must operate according to its terms.

Strategy

Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Ministry's programs and services to ensure the best use of public funds

Key 2011-12 Actions

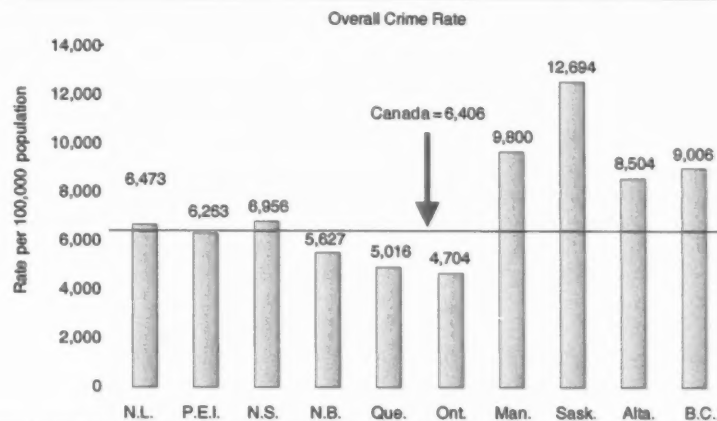
- Continue to implement a management practice of assessment and continuous improvement to ensure a robust, objective, multi-year assessment function.
- Improve and streamline the delivery of court services in the Provincial Court in Saskatoon and Regina through Lean processes.
- Conduct program evaluations of:
 - ~ the Regina Domestic Violence Court; and,
 - ~ with Justice Canada, the Victim Impact Statement Survey Initiative.
- Continue to examine alternative service delivery models for Small Claims Court.
- Continue to respond to the Provincial Court operations program review by developing a manual and training plan for provincial court employees and implementing succession plans for managerial retirements occurring in Provincial Court.
- Continue to consolidate the credit counseling function of the Provincial Mediation Board.
- Implement amendments to *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* to transfer responsibility for hearing human rights complaints from tribunals to the Court of Queen's Bench.
- Implement changes resulting from the 2010-11 Lean review of program delivery in the Office of Residential Tenancies.
- Work with administrative tribunals to improve their policies and procedures, as recommended by the Ombudsman's report, *Hearing Back: Piecing together Timeliness in Saskatchewan's Administrative Tribunals*.
- With other ministries and community partners, develop a provincial mass fatality plan including a national disaster response strategy.
- In partnership with CPSP and the Information Technology Office, continue to reform the courts and corrections information databases and improve efficiency through the Criminal Justice Information Management System (CJIMS) for implementation of the first set of core modules in 2014.
- Continue development and testing of a new Maintenance Enforcement Information System for implementation in 2011.

Performance Measures

Measure

Baseline / Trend Line Information

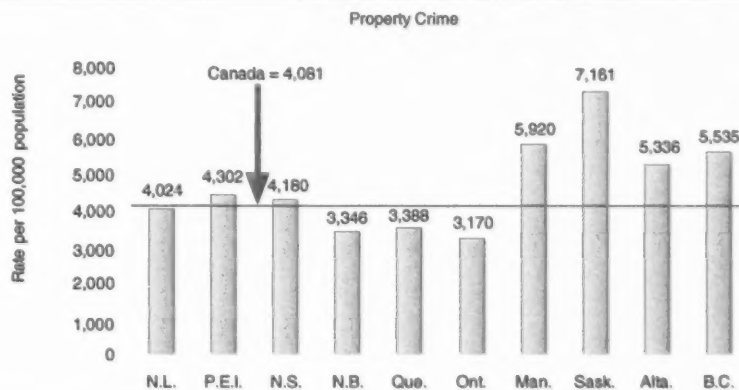
Crime rates



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident Based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), 2009.



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Measure

Baseline / Trend Line Information

Measure Description

These measures are of interest to the Ministry and to the Government as they provide a measure of the well-being of society and drive much of what is done in the criminal justice system. Generally speaking, crime rates provide information on how much and what type of crime is being experienced in communities. This measure supports the Ministry's strategies to reduce crime and improve public confidence in the justice system through prevention, intervention, and enforcement and to improve access to services and supports for victims of crime.

While the crime rate is often thought of as a justice sector issue and is a crucial consideration in justice planning, the root causes of crime are much broader, requiring integrated, comprehensive planning, funding, and resources across sectors. Most of the factors influencing crime rates are out of the direct control of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, though the Ministry needs to be able to respond to offending and victimization effectively and work proactively to address the causes and reduce crime. Crime rates do not describe how well criminal justice institutions are responding to crime.

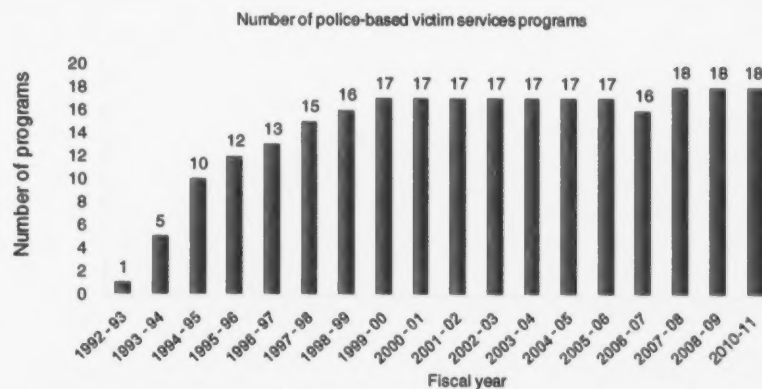
The Saskatchewan crime numbers continue to be cause for deep concern in spite of the decrease in overall reported crime and crime severity in recent years; and, slightly less than a third of complaints that come to the attention of police will result in criminal charges. A majority of justice system funding and resources are used to respond to offending and victimization through enforcement and prosecution of offenders or in working to reduce the risk of crime and increase public safety in other ways such as community justice and crime prevention programming.

The graphs represent the most recent data available. Data from 2010 will not be available until July 2011.

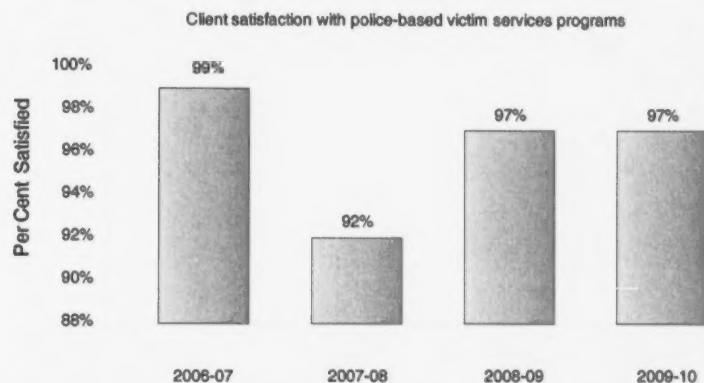
Measure

Access to and satisfaction with police-based victim services programs

Baseline / Trend Line Information



Source: Victim Services, Ministry of justice and Attorney General



Source: Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Measure Description

These measures are of interest to the Ministry and the Government as they demonstrate the Ministry's commitment to providing effective services and supports to victims of crime throughout the criminal justice process. This supports the Ministry's strategy to improve access to services and supports for victims of crime.

The 18 police-based programs serve victims of crime directly and are available to 87 per cent of the Saskatchewan population. For eight years prior to 2008-09 the programs served 80 per cent of the population. In 2008-09 services were expanded to new areas and the per cent population served increased by 7 per cent. This has been maintained through 2010-11.

Funding for these programs comes from the Victims' Fund. Program expansion so that all Saskatchewan has access to a police-based program is a long-term goal of the Ministry and depends directly on the amount of revenue available to the Fund.

Continued on Pg 12

The police-based programs are very effective at serving victims of crime and traumatic events through crisis intervention, information about the impact of crime and victimization, support, and referrals to other services. Since 2006-07, an annual satisfaction survey has been conducted with clients of these programs. Reported results each year show that programs are meeting their mandates very effectively. In 2009-10, 177 completed surveys were returned revealing:

- most respondents (95.8 per cent) reported that the supports and services provided by Victim Services met their needs, with 53.8 per cent reporting that they "more than met my needs";
- most respondents (97.0 per cent) reported that they were satisfied with the supports and services provided by Victim Services;
- almost all respondents felt they were treated with courtesy and respect (99.8 per cent) and compassion (99.0 per cent); and,
- almost all (99.2 per cent) reported that Victim Services people were non-judgmental.

Factors that may affect people's perception of the program include: timeliness of response, frequency of contact, nature of services provided, the needs of the victim, the expectations of the victim about the role of victims services, and their expectations for the criminal justice process.

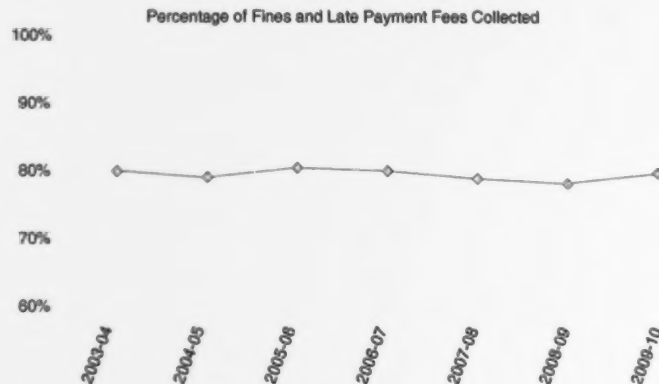
Justice and Attorney General has a moderate level of control over these measures. The programs are delivered in partnership with the local police service. RCMP-based programs operate with community advisory committees.

The graphs represent the most recent data available. Data for client satisfaction with police-based victim services programs for 2010-11 will not be available until July 2011.

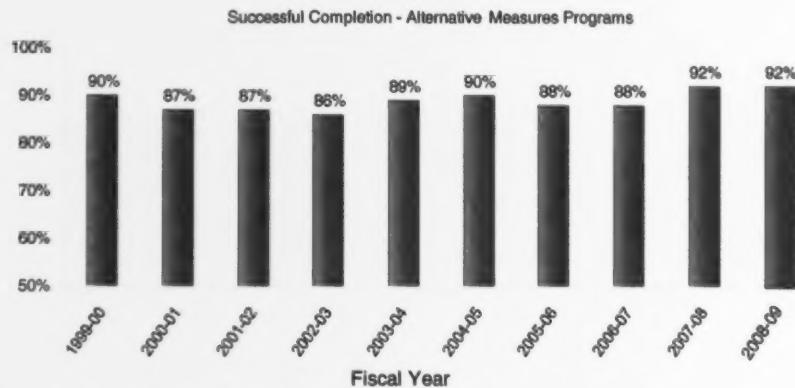
Measure

Baseline / Trend Line Information

Offender accountability



Source: Court Services, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Note: Results are reported over a five year time period.



Source: Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Measure Description

These measures are of interest to the Ministry and the Government as they demonstrate the degree to which offenders are held accountable for their actions by the criminal justice system. Holding offenders accountable for their actions is a critical component of community safety. The Ministries of Justice and Attorney General and CPSP work together to hold offenders accountable in three ways: custodial sentences and community supervision orders; financial commitments; and, community justice programs. This supports the Ministry's strategy to reduce crime and improve public confidence in the justice system through prevention, intervention, and enforcement.

The Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General is responsible for fine collection, which is reported in the first measure. Offenders can be ordered to pay fines as part of their sentence. Because offenders sometimes require time to pay fines, this measure is reported over a five-year time range as a percentage paid of the dollar amount of fines ordered in a specific fiscal year (e.g., payments for fines ordered in 2003-04 would be reported for the following five fiscal years). This value has been fairly constant, ranging from 77 per cent to 88 per cent over the last five reporting periods.

Continued on Pg 14

The Ministry continues to work on cost-effective methods of collecting outstanding fines. In 2008-09 it established the Fine Collection Branch. It also implemented an agreement with the Canada Revenue Agency to garnish GST rebates and income tax refunds.

Although the Ministry continues to attempt to have as much influence as possible over fine collection, the Ministry has a low to moderate influence over this measure. Factors such as the employment status and ability of the individual to pay are out of the Ministry's control.

The second measure provides data on offenders' successful completion of agreements in adult community justice alternative measures programs that are the responsibility of the Ministry. Alternative measures programs provide an option within the criminal justice system that allows crime to be addressed outside of the formal court system. People accused of a criminal offence who take responsibility for their conduct may be offered the opportunity to address the harm caused by their actions by participating in diversion, mediation or conferences through a community-based program.

The 2008-09 data (most recent data available) continue to show that over the years offenders have had a consistently high level of success in these programs, ranging from 86 per cent to 92 per cent completing.

The Ministry has a low level of influence over the outcomes of this measure. The following determinants have been identified as affecting program success, all outside the control of the Ministry:

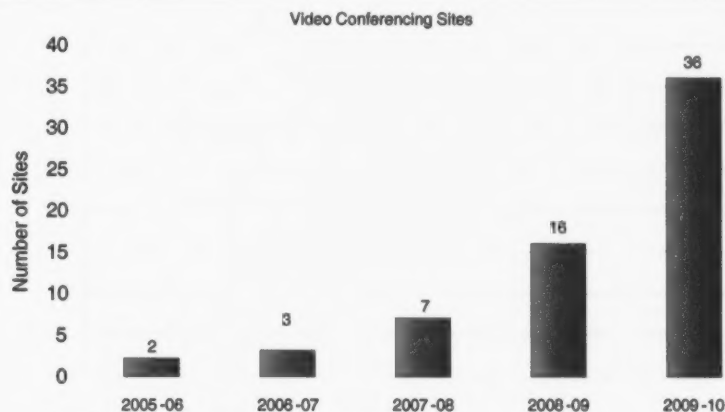
- Offender attitudes, values, beliefs, cognitive challenges, and addictions;
- Available treatment services and programs;
- Family and social supports;
- Educational/employment opportunities; and,
- Changing police practice.

As well, this performance measure depends on external variables such as the willingness of participants to reach agreements and the skills of the mediator/facilitator. This type of justice intervention may not have a long-term impact on some offenders if lifestyle conditions and supports remain unchanged. However, research and evaluation projects have shown that participants in alternative measures programs are less likely to re-offend than a cohort group of offenders who did not participate in this type of program.

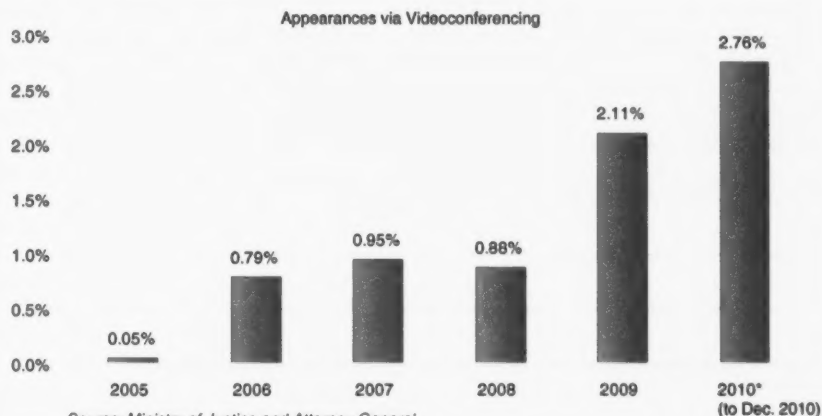
Measure

Number of videoconferencing sites and appearances

Baseline / Trend Line Information



Source: Ministry of Justice and Attorney General



Source: Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Measure Description

This measure is of interest to the Ministry and Government as videoconferencing technology reduces costs of prisoner and witness transport and assists in ensuring Saskatchewan is a secure place to live. This measure directly connects to the Ministry's strategy to improve policies, services, supports, and infrastructure to increase public confidence, efficiency and justice for all people in Saskatchewan.

Videoconferencing is primarily used to facilitate court appearances without transporting prisoners, witnesses, judges, Crown prosecutors, and defence counsel. It can be used for a variety of court experiences such as first appearances, adjournments, bail hearings and remote appearances by witnesses and counsel. The use of videoconferencing sites reduces transportation and security concerns, increases access to justice, reduces transportation costs, and reduces court time and inconvenience to judges, counsel, the police, and offenders.

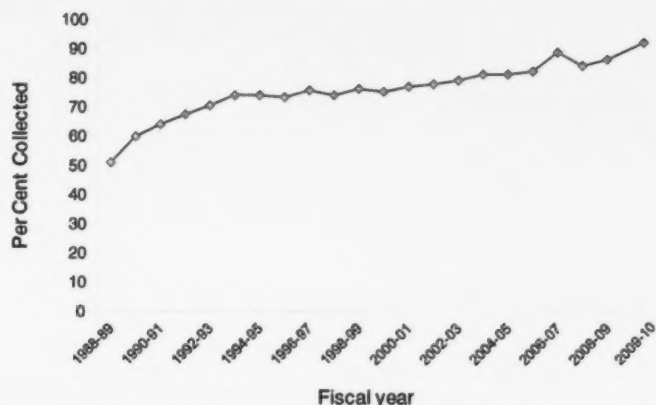
The two indicators identified here, number of sites and number of appearances, show the extent to which the initiative has been implemented and used. As shown, use has increased over the years.

The Ministry has a high level of control over this measure, as it relates to the installation of videoconferencing equipment. The Ministry has little control over the frequency with which videoconferencing is used because requests generally come from offenders and defence bar.

Measure

Collection of support payments for children and families

Baseline / Trend Line Information



Source: Maintenance Enforcement Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Measure Description

This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government as its increasing value demonstrates commitment to ensuring Saskatchewan is a secure place to live. Maintenance enforcement orders and agreements for financial support occur following a divorce or separation. The health and well-being of the families depend on timely receipt of support income to which they are entitled. This measure connects with the Ministry's strategy to support adults and children in vulnerable circumstances by providing program services and supports.

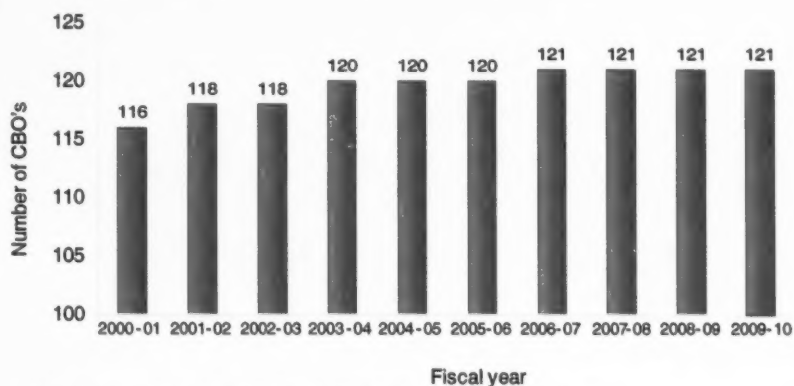
This performance measure provides evidence that the Saskatchewan Maintenance Enforcement Office has consistently improved its rate of collection over the long-term since it was first opened in the 1987-88 fiscal year. For the past five years the Office has maintained a collection rate of over 80 per cent. In 2009-10 the Office collected 91.2 per cent of monies owed in maintenance and enforcement orders and agreements referred to the Office. This was 5.2 per cent more than in 2008-09 and had a value over \$32 million.

The Ministry has a high level of influence over this measure. It can enforce orders through garnishment of wages, bank accounts, and federal government payments, such as employment insurance, Canada Pension payments, Old Age Security, income tax refunds or GST credits. It is always looking for new ways to ensure the successful collection of monies owed.

Measure

Community-based organizations engaged in crime prevention activities

Baseline / Trend Line Information



Source: Community Justice Division, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Measure Description

This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government because it demonstrates the extent of partnerships and relationships between the Ministry and community-based organizations (CBOs) offering justice-related programs. Partnering with CBOs is a critical pillar of community justice activity and provides a measure of community engagement in crime prevention. This measure supports the Ministry's strategy to reduce crime and improve public confidence in the justice system through prevention, intervention and enforcement.

The number of CBOs engaged in crime prevention activities with the Ministry has remained fairly constant for the last five years. These programs include community justice programs, victims services programs, crime prevention programs, and family violence prevention and crisis response programs. These programs are located across the province in urban, rural, and northern centres as well as on-reserve.

Implementation of the community-based model the Ministry uses to promote community justice takes time. Community readiness is a critical factor because the community has a vital role in developing these programs to support a response to criminal behaviour and victimization that meets locally determined needs. The Ministry continues to have success with this model and has a high level of influence over the measure as the Ministry often initiates and supports community participation through CBOs throughout the province.

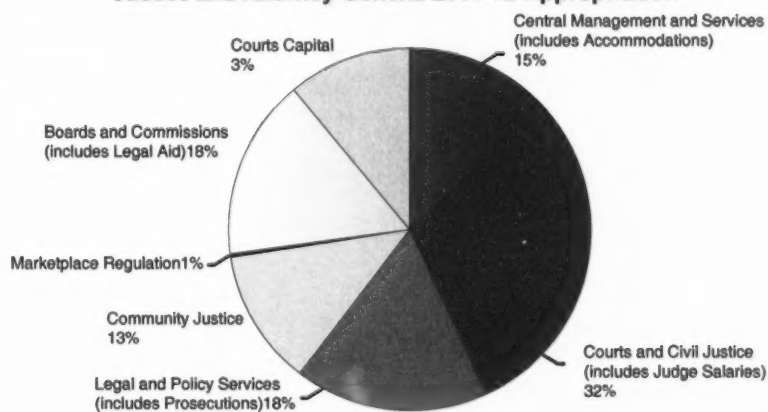
Financial Summary

Highlights of Appropriation and Expense 2011-12

2011-12 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services (JU01)	21,137
Courts and Civil Justice (JU03)	48,954
Legal and Policy Services (JU04)	28,151
Community Justice (JU05)	19,821
Marketplace Regulation (JU07)	448
Boards and Commissions (JU08)	26,254
Courts Capital (JU11)	17,892
Total Appropriation	162,657
Capital Asset Acquisition	(17,892)
Capital Amortization	700
TOTAL EXPENSE	145,465
<hr/>	
Ministry FTE	798.9
Revolving Fund FTE	82.1

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2011-12/>

Justice and Attorney General 2011-12 Appropriation



HIGHLIGHTS

Key highlights for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's 2011-12 Budget include:

- \$590,000 will be invested to undertake a new initiative to address adult serious violent offenders in the province. The Serious Violent Offender Response will target the prosecution of individuals who commit robberies, repeat or serious assaults and sexual assaults.
- Two new initiatives related to assisting people in vulnerable circumstances are being funded by the Ministry in 2011-12:
 - ~ \$200,000 will be allocated to the Aboriginal Child Protection Courtworker Program to enhance family law service provision in the current Saskatchewan Aboriginal Courtworker Program; and,
 - ~ \$50,000 will be provided to provide safe transportation for victims who are fleeing domestic violence situations living north of LaRonge and Meadow Lake.
- \$300,000 will be invested for improvements to increase the efficiency of the court system, including continuing the addition of more videoconferencing sites for court appearances.
- \$13.8 million will be provided to begin building an addition to the existing Saskatoon Queen's Bench Court House. This addition will allow the Ministry to consolidate necessary staff into one location and alleviate inefficiencies caused by leasing additional space off-site.
- The mid-year transfer of Consumer Protection Branch to Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission (SFSC) will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of processes designed to protect consumers from unlawful, deceitful, and unscrupulous practices in the marketplace. This move will allow Consumer Protection Branch to take advantage of the regulatory expertise and strategic focus in areas such as consumer education of SFSC and strengthen the objectives of both organizations in the future.
- \$181,000 will be invested to improve the Justice of the Peace program that provides an entry point to the criminal justice system. Through updates to the service delivery model and a reorganization of the Program, the judicial officers that work as Justices of the Peace will operate in a more structured and up-to-date environment that better meets the needs of all involved.
- Legislative protections for consumers and businesses will continue to be implemented, including *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* and amendments to *The Condominium Property Act*.
- In order to increase efficiency the Ministry will improve services without increasing expenses by developing and implementing proactive responses. This will include an electronic ticket pilot project to automate the manual police ticketing process and the implementation of a new computer system in the Maintenance Enforcement Office.
- The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General will support the *Saskatchewan Children and Youth Agenda* through placing particular emphasis on the strategies targeted to reduce crime and violence and to address child welfare.
- The Ministry will continue to work with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing to implement an integrated information system to support the operation of the criminal justice system.

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at www.justice.gov.sk.ca or contact (306) 787-0775 for additional information on the Ministry's programs and services.